

**Amendment and Response**

Applicant: Rogelio Robles

Serial No.: 09/613,700

Filed: July 11, 2000

Docket No.: 10001305-1

Title: DISTRIBUTED PRINTING SYSTEM AND METHOD**REMARKS**

The following remarks are made in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed January 20, 2004 in which claims 1-32 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 13-15, 17, 21-25, and 29-31 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention. Claims 1-32 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

**Specification**

The title of the invention has been objected to as not being descriptive.

With this Amendment, the title of the invention has been amended to be more descriptive. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the objection to the title be reconsidered and withdrawn.

**Claim Objections**

Claim 30 has been objected to because of informalities. More specifically, claim 30 has been objected to because the dependency of claim 30 is not correct.

With this Amendment, method claim 30 has been amended to depend from independent method claim 29. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the objection to claim 30 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-4, 6-16, and 18-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owa et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,348,971. Claims 25-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross U.S. Patent No. 5,465,213 in view of Owa et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,348,971.

With this Amendment, independent claims 1, 13, 25, and 29 have been amended to clarify that the number of printers start the print job at the same time and complete the print job at substantially one time.

With respect to the Owa et al. and Ross patents, Applicant submits that neither of these patents, individually or in combination, teach or suggest a system for printing a print job, as claimed in independent claim 1, a method of printing a print job, as claimed in independent claim 13, a system for producing a book on-demand, as claimed in independent

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claim 25, nor a method of producing a book on-demand, as claimed in independent claim 29, wherein a number of printers start a print job at the same time and complete the print job at substantially one time.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 13, 25, and 29 are patentably distinct from the Owa et al. and Ross patents and, therefore, are in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 2-4 and 6-12 further define patentably distinct claim 1, dependent claims 14-16 and 18-24 further define patentably distinct claim 13, dependent claims 26-28 further define patentably distinct claim 25, and dependent claims 30-32 further define patentably distinct claim 29, Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-4 and 6-12, 14-16 and 18-24, 26-28, and 30-32 are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-24, and 25-32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-24, and 25-32 be allowed.

Claims 5 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owa et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,348,971. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

With this Amendment, claims 5 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form and each include the print job weight of each of the print job portions being substantially equal.

The Examiner recognizes that the Owa et al. patent does not teach the print job weight of each of the number of print job portions being equal. The Examiner contends, however, that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of the Owa et al. patent such that the print job weight of each of the number of print job portions is equal based on the Fourth Embodiment of the Owa et al. patent.

The Fourth Embodiment of the Owa et al. patent is characterized by the fact that "print data is generated for each print page rather than generated in batch for each printer and then is sorted into printers" (col. 16, lines 60-63). Merely generating print data for each print page rather than generating print data in batch for each printer and then sorting the print data into printers, however, does not suggest that the print job weight of each of a number of print job portions is substantially equal. Accordingly, the Fourth Embodiment of the Owa et al. patent does not teach or suggest a system for printing a print job as claimed in independent claim 5, nor a method of printing a print job as claimed in independent claim 17.

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In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 5 and 17 are each patentably distinct from the Owa et al. patent and, therefore, are in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 5 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 5 and 17 be allowed.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-32 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either James R. McDaniel at Telephone No. (208) 396-4095, Facsimile No. (208) 396-3958 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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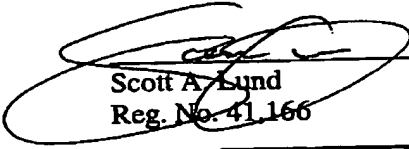
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on this 19TH day of April, 2004.

By   
Name: Scott A. Lund